

**MAINE FIRE PROTECTION SERVICES COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES (Amended)
OCTOBER 6, 2003**

Chair Darrel Fournier called the Maine Fire Protection Services Commission to order at 1:05 pm in the Governor's conference room in the State House. Members present were Jack Berry, Jay Bradshaw, Senator Bruce Bryant, Representative Thomas Bull, Chief Jeffrey Cammack, Art Cleaves, John Dean, Representative Robert Duplessie, Chief Darrel Fournier, Albert Godfrey, Sr., Edward Johnston, Jeffrey Maker, Senator Richard Nass, Harty Norris, Chief Jethro Pease, Bill Williams, Steve Willis and Susan Pinette(staff). Members excused included Michael Albert, John Cannon and David Wacker. Public Safety Commissioner Michael Cantara, Representative Peter Rines of Wiscasset, Leslie Wiles of the Maine Forest Service, and Alan Stearns from Governor Baldacci's office attended the meeting as guests of the Fire Commission.

Governor Baldacci joined the Fire Commission at 1:15 pm. Alan Stearns, Senior Policy Advisor to the Governor, was introduced to Fire Commission members. Mr. Stearns will be the Governor's liaison with the Fire Commission. Members introduced themselves to Governor Baldacci. Chair Darrel Fournier thanked the Governor for attending the meeting and summarized the work of the Fire Commission. Chair Fournier focused on three main points: recruitment and retention of volunteer firefighters, health care, and funding of the State Fire Marshal's Office and Maine Fire Training and Education. The Fire Commission presented the Governor with the two Penflex reports. The Governor spoke briefly on the Dirigo Health plan and how firefighters might qualify. The issue of hospitals and hospital personnel and their part in emergency response was also discussed. All parties agreed to study the issues further and seek permanent solutions.

The Fire Commission also informed the Governor regarding future plans and received tentative acceptance of the Governor's attendance at the January 2004 Fire Service/ EMS Day at the State House and the Spring 2004 conference at the Augusta Armory. The Governor also gave initial approval to naming the spring conference "The Blaine House Conference on Emergency First Response." The Governor and the Fire Commission also agreed to meet every six months.

Governor Baldacci left the meeting at 1:30 pm and the Fire Commission resumed their normal business meeting.

A motion by Tom Bull, seconded by Al Godfrey, to accept the minutes of September 8, 2003. The motion passed unanimously.

Members were updated on two recent actions of the Fire Commission. A copy of the Fire Commission's letter to the South Berwick town manager was distributed. Members also received a copy of the article regarding the award of the "Line of Duty Death Benefit" presented to Mrs. Edith Wentzell, widow of Captain Harding Wentzell of the Mexico Fire Department. Members expressed

concern about the amount of money in the fund and the necessity to inform legislators. Chief Fournier and John Dean agreed to work on the letter.

A motion by Ted Johnston, seconded by Al Godfrey, to send a letter and copies of the article (“Line of Duty Death Benefit Awarded”) to members of the Maine Legislature and the Governor, and to include both the letter and article in the final report. The motion passed unanimously.

Fire Commission members discussed the issue of “red lights and sirens” and the report due to the Transportation committee. A presentation has been scheduled for the November 3rd meeting and the sponsors of LDs 111 and 493, Representatives Al Goodwin and Kevin Glynn, have been invited to discuss the issues with the Fire Commission. The Fire Commission’s report to the Transportation committee is due in January 2004.

The Spring 2004 conference has been scheduled for March 11, 2004 at the Augusta Armory. Plans include a morning session and keynote speaker, and a series of afternoon workshops. The conference will be named “The Blaine House Conference on Emergency First Response” and Governor Baldacci has tentatively agreed to be the luncheon speaker. A committee has agreed to oversee the conference plans and will present a list of possible keynote speakers to the Fire Commission at the November meeting. The members of the committee include Chief Fournier, Jay Bradshaw, Art Cleaves and Steve Willis. Commissioner Cantera has also offered his office’s assistance.

The Legislative Reception has been scheduled for March 10, 2004, the night before the “Blaine House Conference on Emergency First Response”. The reception will be held at the Ground Round Restaurant in Augusta from 5-8pm.

The Fire Service/EMS Day at the State House has been scheduled for Tuesday, January 20, 2004. The event will be held in the Hall of Flags on the second floor of the State House. The Professional Fire Fighters, Maine State Federation of Fire Fighters, Maine Chiefs Association, Maine State Fire Marshal’s Office, Maine Emergency Medical Services, Maine Emergency Management Agency, Maine Fire Training and Education, Bureau of Labor Standards and Maine Forest Service will be asked to participate. Governor Baldacci will again be asked to present the Fire Commission’s 2003 “Best Practice Award”. Members agreed to serve bagels, doughnuts, juice and coffee at the event.

Members agreed to ask Steve McCausland, Public Affairs Officer for the Department of Public Safety, to publicize the activities and events of the Fire Commission. Best Practice award winners, “Line of Duty Death Benefit” recipients, Blaine House Conference on Emergency First Response and the formation of the Legislative fire caucus were some examples of the items Fire Commission members wanted announced in press releases.

Fire Commission members took a few minutes to have a group picture taken by Leslie Wiles of the Maine Forest Service and Heather Stone of the House Majority Office.

The two remaining Fire Commission vacancies are a representative of the Governor’s Office and a representative of the insurance industry. The Governor

makes both appointments to the Fire Commission. Members agreed to ask the Governor's liaison to fill these positions as soon as possible.

The Fire Commission will meet on the following dates:

Monday, November 3, 2003	1:00pm	Regular Meeting **	MEMS
Monday, December 1, 2003	1:00pm	Regular Meeting **	MEMS
Monday, January 5, 2004	1:00pm	Regular Meeting	MEMS

** The Training Facilities Committee will meet at 10:00 am prior to the regular meeting

With no further business to come before the Maine Fire Protection Services Commission, Chair Darrel Fournier adjourned the meeting at 2:17 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan M. Pinette